

REMARKS

The final rejection of September 3, 2004, and the Advisory Action of December 9, 2004, have been carefully reviewed. Upon entry of the present amendment, the claims in the application will be only claims 22, 23, 25 and 26, whereby the amendment presented above should place the present application in condition for allowance per applicants' understanding of the Final and Advisory Actions. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments and formal allowance.

Claims 21, 22, 24 and 25 were rejected in the final action under the first paragraph of Section 112. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 21 is proposed to be deleted above, whereby applicants need not further address this rejection as regards claim 21 at the present time.

With respect to claims 22 and 25, the typographical error in claim 22 noted by the examiner in the final action is proposed to be corrected above.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 21-26 were rejected in the final action under the second paragraph of Section 112. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In view of the proposed deletion of claims 21 and 24, this rejection need not be further addressed at the present time with respect to claims 21 and 24.

However, applicants again respectfully maintain their previously stated position that both the original language and the substitute language appearing in the claims are absolutely clear and would not cause any confusion among those skilled in the present art. Nevertheless, as the examiner in the final action seems to have suggested use of the more standard "consisting essentially of" transition language at numbered page 4, fourth line of the second paragraph of the final action, applicants now propose above to amend claims 22 and 23 to utilize this standard transitional language.

As paragraph 4 of the Advisory Action of December 9, 2004, indicates that claims 22, 23, 25 and 26 would be allowable if the amendments to claims 22 and 23 were repeated in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claims, and such amendment has been presented above, applicants understand that claims 22, 23, 25 and 26 should now be in condition for formal allowance.

Withdrawal of the rejection, entry of the amendment presented above as regards claims 22 and 23, and allowance of these claims are respectfully requested.

The remarks of the previous Reply are respectfully repeated by reference. In particular, applicants again state that they believe and submit that the claims as previously drafted, considered in light of applicants' specification and the prior art (fully consistent with the law), would not have been confusing to those skilled in the art, and therefore the claims in their previous forms are fully in accordance with the first and second paragraphs of §112. At worst, applicants' claims in their previous form might be considered objectionable, but **only** as to form, requiring no substantial amendments relating to patentability.

Consequently, the amendments presented above in claims 22 and 23 are considered by applicants to be cosmetic, i.e. of a formal nature only, made to place the claims in improved form for U.S. practice or the examiner's understanding of what is necessary or desirable under U.S. practice. Applicants submit that the amendments are not "narrowing" amendments because the scope of the claims has not been reduced. No limitations have been added and none are intended.

No prior art has been applied against claims 21-26, and therefore these claims are understood to be free of the prior art, i.e. to define novel and unobvious subject matter under §§102 and 103.

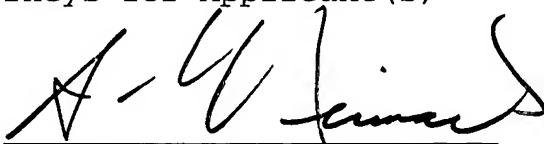
Of these, applicants again note that paragraph 8 of the final Action indicates that claims 23 and 26 are directed to allowable subject matter.

Applicants believe that all issues have been addressed above and have been resolved. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request favorable consideration, withdrawal of the rejections, entry of the amendments presented above and early formal allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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